

Arsenal forward joins up to feed Blues' anaemic attack

WYCOMBE Wanderers have signed an Arsenal youth striker to solve their goal-scoring problems.

Anthony Jeffrey has joined until the end of the season with a view to staying longer after having his contract terminated by the Gunners to facilitate the move.

The 19-year-old scored six times in 19 games for the Arsenal U18s in his debut season. He wasn't as productive last season but found his scoring boots again during a recent loan spell at Boreham Wood.

Blues boss Gareth Ainsworth said: "We'd like to think he's going to pitch in with a few goals. He's got good pedigree being at Arsenal, and it's a good coup for Wycombe.

Jeffrey has pace to burn and has mainly played out wide, but Blues think they might be able to mould

him into a striker.

Ainsworth said: "He went on loan to Boreham Wood and scored seven goals in nine games, which is a fantastic return.

"I know they're a couple of levels lower than us, but obviously he knows where the goal is and he's one of the fastest kids in the country when he was at school.

"He's got Premier League pace and hopefully we can turn him into

something special at Wycombe.

"I'm looking forward to working with him and hopefully he'll be able to terrorise defences for us.

"He's played the majority of his career out wide so we'll start him there, but we'll see if he's got the traits that would make a centre forward that could get in behind them."

Meanwhile, Ainsworth hopes a few more faces might follow Jeffrey to Adams Park.

He said: "We've got a list and there have been a few close shaves that we haven't got over the line at the moment. But we are working hard to make that happen because I want to improve the squad.

"I'm definitely working on trying to bring players in."

And the forward department is

where Ainsworth is focused.

Blues have suffered from a drastic lack of goals this season and now Steven Craig is suspended while Dean Morgan, Jon-Paul Pittman and Paris Cowen-Hall have been out through injury.

Ainsworth said: "The board understand that with the injuries we've had you may need a bit of help in the short term to get things going again. They'll back me on trying to get someone in, but we've not got millions of pounds so it's got to be the right player.

"You have to marry up the player with the money and come to a balance of which one would be the best for the club both on the pitch and off it for the board and the finances.

"I wish I could sign Juan Mata, but that's not going to happen."

